

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A ceramic porous sintered body comprising:

ceramic coarse particles and a bonding layer existing between the ceramic coarse particles to connect the coarse particles ~~and including ceramic fine particles having a mean particle size smaller than that of the ceramic coarse particles~~[[,]]; and

a polycrystalline sintered body forming said bonding layer and including a plurality of ceramic fine particles having an average particle size smaller than the ceramic coarse particles,

wherein said ceramic porous sintered body, including said ceramic coarse particles and said bonding layer existing between the ceramic coarse particles, has an average pore diameter of 5 μm to 50 μm .

2. (Currently Amended) The ceramic sintered body according to claim 1, wherein the ceramic coarse particles ~~are~~ comprise single-crystal particles.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Currently Amended) The ceramic sintered body according to claim 1, wherein the bonding layer is a brittle body having a strength lower than that of the ceramic coarse particles.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously Presented) The ceramic sintered body according to claim 5, wherein the ceramic fine particles are formed by sintering with the grain boundary remained.

7. (Currently Amended) The ceramic sintered body according to claim 1, wherein the bonding layer ~~contains~~ includes at least one sintering aid selected from iron, aluminium, nickel, titanium, chromium and oxide.

8. (Currently Amended) The ceramic sintered body according to claim 7, wherein a the content of the sintering aid in the bonding layer is higher than that contained in the ceramic coarse particles.

9. (Currently Amended) The ceramic sintered body according to claim 1, wherein the ceramic coarse particles and the bonding layers ~~are formed by~~ comprise a silicon carbide material.

10. (Previously Presented) The ceramic sintered body according to claim 1, wherein a ratio of an average particle size of the ceramic coarse particle to the ceramic fine particles is 15:1 - 200:1.

11. (Previously Presented) The ceramic sintered body according to claim 1, wherein a ratio of total weight of the ceramic coarse particles to the ceramic fine particles is 1:1 - 9:1.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Currently Amended) A ceramic filter with a honeycomb structure ~~comprising~~ including a pillar-shaped porous ceramic member or a combination of a plurality of the pillar-shaped porous ceramic members in which a plurality of cells as a gas passageway are arranged side by side in a longitudinal direction through cell walls and either one end portions of these cells are plugged, ~~wherein the filter itself is formed by~~ comprising:

a ceramic porous sintered body including ~~comprising~~ ceramic coarse particles and a bonding layer existing between the ceramic coarse particles to connect the coarse particles ~~and including ceramic fine particles having an average particle size smaller than that of the ceramic coarse particles~~ and

a polycrystalline sintered body forming said bonding layer and including a plurality of ceramic fine particles having an average particle size smaller than the ceramic coarse particles,

wherein said ceramic porous sintered body, including said ceramic coarse particles and said bonding layer existing between the ceramic coarse particles, has an average pore diameter of 5 μm to 50 μm .

14. (Currently Amended) The ceramic filter according to claim 13, wherein the ceramic coarse particles ~~are~~ comprise single-crystal particles.

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Previously Presented) The ceramic filter according to claim 13, wherein the bonding layer is brittle body having a strength lower than the ceramic coarse particles.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Previously Presented) The ceramic filter according to claim 17, wherein the ceramic fine particles are formed by sintering with the grain boundary remained.

19. (Previously Presented) The ceramic filter according to claim 13, wherein the bonding layer contains at least one sintering aid selected from iron, aluminium, nickel, titanium, chromium, and oxide.

20. (Currently Amended) The ceramic filter according to claim 19, wherein the content of the sintering aid in the bonding layer is higher than that contained in the ceramic coarse particles.

21. (Currently Amended) The ceramic filter according to claim 13, wherein the ceramic coarse particles and the bonding layer ~~are formed by~~ comprise a silicon carbide material.

22. (Previously Presented) The ceramic filter according to claim 13, wherein a ratio of an average particle size of the ceramic coarse particles to the ceramic fine particles is 15:1 - 200:1.

23. (Previously Presented) The ceramic filter according to claim 13, wherein a ratio of total weight of the ceramic coarse particles to the ceramic fine particles is 1:1 - 9:1.

24. (Cancelled).

25. (New) A ceramic filter according to claim 1, wherein the average particle size of the ceramic coarse particle is 30 μm to 70 μm .

26. (New) A ceramic filter according to claim 1, wherein the average particle size of the ceramic fine particle is 0.1 μm to 20 μm .

27. (New) A ceramic filter according to claim 13, wherein the average particle size of the ceramic coarse particle is 30 μm to 70 μm .

28. (New) A ceramic filter according to claim 13, wherein the average particle size of the ceramic fine particle is 0.1 μm to 20 μm .